

Beautiful Oakland County

(From MOTOR NEWS, official publication of Automobile Club of Michigan)

Centuries before the white man came the Indians trooped into the section that now is Oakland County because of the myriad lakes and the excellent fishing...

Present Attractions Well the first thing you'll find a thrill when you've crossed the line into the county is the galaxy of lakes, ranging from the great bodies of water such as Cass and Orchard and Walled Lakes down to tiny bodies of blue water that tress in their surroundings of green like turquoise in a frame of deep jade...

Over 400 Lakes

More than 400 lakes in Oakland County today offer the vacationist the very pinnacles in peace and beauty and the sport of fishing, for few of the Oakland lakes are without plenty of fish. And with the peace and beauty of the hundreds of lakes the Oakland visitor finds an additional luxury in rolling hills and lush valleys...

Travel in any direction out of Pontiac and you'll encounter the little towns that have played such an important part in the development of Oakland County. To the eastward Rochester, with its Bloomer State Park and its new winter playground, Northward a bit you have Orion and Lakeville. Oxford and Troy are westward and Clarkston. To the west you'll find Wilford and Rose Center and Hal-

Home of Indians The Indians gathered at the "crossroads," long before James Graham and Christopher Hart-ought plunged into the forests and set up their cabins at what is now Rochester. That was in 1817, a full year before Stephen Mack, William Woodbridge, Alexander Macomb and others, casting aside surveyors' reports that the country to the north of Detroit was swampy and unfit for human habitation, headed northward and established a settlement and called it Pontiac for the Ottawa chief who had gone to his fathers many moons before. Pontiac was a bloodthirsty old chap and a thorn in the side of the English in the early days of Detroit, but no one could deny his strength of character and his courage, and Stephen Mack and his group were fervent and admiring...

In the heart of the group of lakes around Waterford you'll find the new state fish hatchery, planted which millions of fish are placed in the county's lakes; and, please believe me, if you've never visited a modern hatchery, don't pass up the chance to see this one... for it is something you'll remember for a long, long time.

If your golf enthusiast you'll find literary scores of golf courses scattered over the county for your enjoyment... and some of them are considered the sportiest in all America...

And from the day Mack and his group moved into the forests and set up the village of Pontiac until this day the town of Pontiac... has moved steadily forward until it is one of the state's most important places. But enough of the old history. You are interested in what you'll see when you go into Oakland County now.

As you probably will, you'll find Wally Chapel, just to the east of the Bloomfield Hills. One of the county's most beautiful memorial parks... with its great beds of flowers... and its imposing monument of the famed Polar Bear Division which did its World War fighting in the snowy hills and plains of Siberia.

Romantic Spot

At Orchard Lake you'll see one of the most picturesque spots in the Middle West... St. Cyril's Seminary and St. Mary's College, an institution from which most of America's Polish priests go out to carry the message of their religion. And this same group of buildings was one of the first military schools in this section of the country, with General William Tecumseh Sherman, fresh from his Civil War glories, traveling to Orchard Lake for its dedication.

And when you're at Orchard Lake you're at some of the most beautiful and romantic spots in the whole country, for here it was that the Indians gathered along their council fires in that early day... and it was to Orchard Lake that Pontiac fled after his body scarred and his heart broken after his defeat in Detroit. There is a legend that Pontiac's body was buried on the little island in the middle of the lake, but historians doubt that; they hold that Pontiac's corpse was buried in what he was slain years after his siege in Detroit.

But Orchard Lake is the locale of the beautiful legend of Me-nah-shog-sag, a legend based on an incident long before the white man arrived and when only the lakes and lakes of Oakland were peopled only by the red man... his canoes cutting the waters of the little lakes and streams.

As far back as the Indian tradition and legends go, when on the island in the middle of Orchard Lake and on the island among apple trees. Whose apple trees came even the Indians could tell. But the red man saved the life of the Me-nah-shog-sagging, which means "place of the apples."

And an Indian princess and her young warrior, would paddle their canoe to the island in the spring, when the ancient trees were in the glory of their pink and white blossoms, and there they would whisper of their love while they ate, the sun set, and the body in a grave which she dug beneath the old apple trees. The tribe moved to the body back to the mainland but the next night the princess moved the body back to the island. Medicine men of the tribe tried to move the minor chiefs gathered and discussed the phenomenon... and decided the girl must die.

Her execution so angered the Great Spirit, the old legend tells us, that the tribe was destroyed... but the maiden was under control of their spirits "as long as water flows"... and through the years she has had power to call the spirits together at her will... to hear the chief to the island that the swifthearts may have their hour of communion beneath the old trees... and then carry him back to his mainland resting place. All this, the legend says, has been done between sunset and sunrise... and the Pontiac Indians of today will tell you that their mothers and fathers and grandmothers and grandfathers have witnessed this strange pilgrimage... usually on a foggy night in spring, when the apple trees are in bloom. And when you find the true Indian legends from the Chippewas who live in and around Pontiac to believe, you're just a bit inclined to love them... for those original Michiganders are a sincere people... a most convincing people...

It was Princess Silver Star of the Chippewas who told me the amazing sequence of events following the death, in a traffic accident, of Chief Little Elk, who for years headed the Chippewas in Oakland County. And, believe me, or not, the prosaic weather reports of police and sheriff's office support her story. I had to hope for the story, but here it is just as Princess Silver Star told it to me.

Chief Little Elk was injured late on an afternoon in July... a clear afternoon, when the sun was riding high in blue skies. An hour later he died... and the moment a spirit passed on to the Happy Hunting Ground... a terrific storm broke over an hour before he had been fair, thunder rolled and lightning flashed and rain fell in torrents. Said Princess Silver Star...

It was the Thunder Bird expressing displeasure at the ignoble passing of a great chief. For four afternoons after Chief Little Elk's death the storm raged in at the same hour. Said Princess Silver Star: "Four days it required for Little Elk's spirit to travel through space to the Land of Eternal Life. On the fifth evening the northern lights flamed... in green and yellow and gold... a shimmer of brilliance in the northern skies... a spectacle so beautiful that watchers were held speech-

less in its thrall. Said Princess Silver Star: "Those who had gone before had lighted council fire to welcome Little Elk."

Imagination? Possibly. But my friends, those phenomena of the elements occurred.

And this July visitors to Oakland County will see Chippewas elevate a new chief to succeed Little Elk... in ceremonies which have been handed down through centuries... with the royal head-dress that has been in use since before the white man came... with chants that rang through the Michigan forests before the missionaries first braved arrows and tomahawks to carry the Cross into new lands... in ceremonies which may not be seen in Michigan within the lifetime of those of us who read these lines.

Ah, yes, you'll find something to keep you interested every minute you're in Pontiac or Oakland County... for you have beauty and peace and ample facilities for anything you want in the amusement line... whether it be piloting a sailboat over the blue waters or one of the larger lakes or spending lazy hours beneath the branches of an ancient oak... whether it be casting for bass or exploring any one of the old towns that are so rich in history and legend... whether it be sailing over one of the nationally famous courses that dot the county or chilling in the beauty of the regimented flower gardens and miles of lake and peninsula and roses... arcadian of the young through the years.

When you get into Pontiac you'll find everything in the way of convenience... good restaurant and modern hotels... picture shows and a division of Automobile club of Michigan... and-

some homes and tree-shaded avenues... truly a picture breath-takingly different from the little handful of cabins Stephen Mack and his companions set up more than a century ago.

So, my friends, by all means see Pontiac and Oakland County... you'll treasure your findings among the most pleasant in your memory of things worth seeing.

Soon after Pontiac was settled it became a great center of wagon manufacture because of the great forest of ash and oak and hickory... and in time the Pontiac buggy was produced... the heart's desire of the young man who wanted the swankiest thing on wheels.

And in time the company making the Pontiac buggy became the Oakland Motor Car Company, for runner of the great Pontiac Motor Car Company of today.

Today's Pontiac car is manufactured just a stone's throw from where, almost three-quarters of a century ago, the Pontiac buggy was made.

What You Should See in Oakland Pontiac factory near the spot where Pontiac buggies were built... Orchard Lake and Apple Island locale of beautiful legend of Me-nah-shog-sag.

Four hundred lakes scattered all over Oakland County in every direction from Pontiac.

Old towns such as Rochester and Orion, Oxford and Ortonville, Holly and Highland.

Walled Lake, with its ancient wall built by human hands long before the coming of the white man.

Old Protestant church near Highland and old Catholic church.

near Oxbow Lake, both more than a century old. Drayton Plains Fish Hatchery.

Twelve state parks and innumerable recreation spots.

En route from Detroit to Pontiac: Bloomfield Hills estates. Cranbrook group... Shrine of the Little Flower... Detroit Zoo... St. Hugo of the Hills church... all on U. S. 10.

Vacation Spots

How about this place? Lake Chaubungungunawag.

Unemployment in A Nutshell Mr. Ernest Brown crystallized the unemployment problem when he told Parliament that it is really a question of finding jobs... (Oxford Mail).

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\$200 Contest Photo Entry

This photo of Roger Ras, Lansing flyer who was rated in recent years as the nation's best parachute entrants in the \$200 Michigan photo contest sponsored by this newspaper in conjunction with the Michigan Press Association and the Michigan State Fair, Detroit. The winner of the contest, a Michigan State Fair, Detroit, for Michigan fairs and is now a TWA commercial pilot. G. C. Granger of Lansing took the photo just before Ras made a successful parachute jump. First prize in the contest is \$200. Awards totaling \$200 will be presented on Sept. 1 as a feature of the fair's "Press State Fair, Detroit.

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